

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

Centrum Valley Farms LLC  
100 Central Avenue  
Clarion, Iowa 50525-1411

**ATTENTION:**

Michael R. Blaser, Registered Agent  
Centrum Valley Farms LLC  
666 Grand Ave  
Suite 200  
Des Moines, Iowa 50309-2510

**Request to Provide Information Pursuant to the Clean Air Act**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is requiring Centrum Valley Farms LLC (Centrum or you) to submit certain information about the facilities located at 11212 Croton Road, Croton, Ohio 43013 (Croton Facility); 11873 County Road 77, Harpster, Ohio 43323 (Marseilles Facility); 20279 County Road 245, Mount Victory, Ohio 43340 (Mt. Victory Facility). Appendix A provides the instructions needed to answer this information request, including instructions for electronic submissions. Appendix B specifies the information that you must submit. You must send this information to us within 45 calendar days after you receive this request.

We are issuing this information request under Section 114(a) of the Clean Air Act (the CAA), 42 U.S.C. § 7414(a). Section 114(a) authorizes the Administrator of EPA to require the submission of information. The Administrator has delegated this authority to the Director of the Air and Radiation Division, Region 5.

Centrum currently owns or operates, or is a managing partner, of air emission sources at the Croton, Marseilles, and Mt. Victory facilities. We are requesting this information to determine whether your emission sources and you are complying with requirements of the 2004 Consent Decree entered in case number C:03-CV-7681, and the Ohio State Implementation Plan.

Centrum must send all required information to:

Attn: Compliance Tracker, AE-18J  
Air Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Branch  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 5  
77 W. Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Centrum must submit all required information under an authorized signature with the following certification:

I certify under penalty of law that I have examined and am familiar with the information in the enclosed documents, including all attachments. Based on my inquiry of those individuals with primary responsibility for obtaining the information, I certify that the statements and information are, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for knowingly submitting false statements and information, including the possibility of fines or imprisonment pursuant to Section 113(c)(2) of the Clean Air Act and 18 U.S.C. §§ 1001 and 1341.

As explained more fully in Appendix C, you may assert a claim of business confidentiality under 40 C.F.R. Part 2, Subpart B for any part of the information you submit to us. Information subject to a business confidentiality claim is available to the public only to the extent, and by means of the procedures, set forth at 40 C.F.R. Part 2, Subpart B. If you do not assert a business confidentiality claim when you submit the information, EPA may make this information available to the public without further notice. You should be aware, moreover, that pursuant to Section 114(c) of the CAA and 40 C.F.R. § 2.301(a) and (f), emissions data, standards and limitations are not entitled to confidential treatment. Appendix C provides

additional information regarding the meaning and scope of the term “emissions data.”

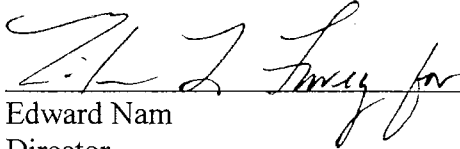
This information request is not subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act, 44 U.S.C. § 3501 *et seq.*, because it seeks collection of information from specific individuals or entities as part of an administrative action or investigation.

We may use any information submitted in response to this request in an administrative, civil or criminal action.

Failure to comply fully with this information request may subject Centrum to an enforcement action under Section 113 of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7413.

You should direct any questions about this information request to Natalie Topinka at (312) 886-3853.

5/17/18  
Date

  
Edward Nam  
Director  
Air and Radiation Division

## **Appendix A**

When providing the information requested in Appendix B, use the following instructions and definitions.

### **Instructions**

1. Provide a separate narrative response to each question and subpart of a question set forth in Appendix B.
2. Precede each answer with the number of the question to which it corresponds and, at the end of each answer, identify the person(s) who provided information used or considered in responding to that question, as well as each person consulted in the preparation of that response.
3. Indicate on each document produced, or in some other reasonable manner, the number of the question to which it corresponds.
4. When a response is provided in the form of a number, specify the units of measure of the number in a precise manner.
5. Where information or documents necessary for a response are neither in your possession nor available to you, indicate in your response why the information or documents are not available or in your possession, and identify any source that either possesses or is likely to possess the documents or information.
6. If information not known or not available to you as of the date of submission later becomes known or available to you, you must supplement your response. Moreover, should you find at any time after the submission of your response that any portion of the submitted information is false or incorrect, you must notify EPA as soon as possible.

### **Electronic Submissions**

To aid in our electronic recordkeeping efforts, we request that you provide all documents responsive to this information request in an electronic format according to paragraphs 1 through 6, below. These submissions are in lieu of hard copy.

1. Provide all responsive documents in Portable Document Format (PDF) or similar format, unless otherwise requested in specific questions. If the PDFs are scanned images, perform at least Optical Character Recognition (OCR) for “image over text” to allow the document to be searchable. Submitters providing secured PDFs should also provide unsecured versions for EPA use in repurposing text.
2. When specific questions request data in electronic spreadsheet form, provide the data and corresponding information in editable Excel or Lotus format, and not in image format. If Excel or Lotus formats are not available, then the format should allow for data to be used in calculations by a standard spreadsheet program such as Excel or Lotus.

3. Provide submission on physical media such as compact disk, flash drive or other similar item.
4. Provide a table of contents for each compact disk or flash drive containing electronic documents submitted in response to our request so that each document can be accurately identified in relation to your response to a specific question. *We recommend the use of electronic file folders organized by question number.* In addition, each compact disk or flash drive should be labeled appropriately (e.g., Company Name, Disk 1 of 4 for Information Request Response, Date of Response).
5. Documents claimed as confidential business information (CBI) must be submitted on separate disks/drives apart from the non-confidential information. This will facilitate appropriate records management and appropriate handling and protection of the CBI. Please follow the instructions in Appendix C for designating information as CBI.
6. Certify that the attached files have been scanned for viruses and indicate what program was used.

#### **Definitions**

All terms used in this information request have their ordinary meaning unless such terms are defined in the CAA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 7401 *et seq.*

## **Appendix B**

### **Information You Are Required to Submit to EPA**

Centrum must submit the following information pursuant to Section 114(a) of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7414(a) within 45 days of its receipt of this request.

#### **Financial Information:**

1. Copies of complete, signed, federal income tax returns, including all schedules and attachments, for the latest available five (5) fiscal years. If the tax returns were filed electronically, provide the corresponding IRS e-file Signature Authorization Form.
2. Complete year-end financial statements, including the auditor's letter (if available), balance sheet, income statement, statement of cash flows, and notes, for the last five fiscal years.
3. For the current fiscal year, provide year-to-date financial results by month, including a balance sheet, an income statement, and cash accounting, if available, along with comparable year-to-date financial results for the prior year.
4. For the three most recently completed fiscal years, provide financial results by month, including a balance sheet, an income statement, and cash accounting, if available.
5. Provide current financial forecasts or projections, including income statement, balance sheet, and statement of cash flow, if available.
6. Identify each company's owners/members and the shares or proportion of ownership for each owner.
7. Identify all related party transactions between and among Ohio Fresh Eggs (OFE), Trillium Farms/Trillium Farms Holdings LLC, Versova Management Company LLC, and Centrum Valley Farms LLC for the past five years.
8. Copies of any rental or lease agreements for all business locations occupied during the last five fiscal years.
9. Copies of all contracts, agreements, and invoices for any management or consulting fees incurred by the company during the last five fiscal years.
10. Copies of all currently active loan and line of credit agreements, including loans from shareholders and related parties. Provide documentation of any amendments to the agreements implemented or discussed during the last six months, all correspondence between the lender and the company regarding loan terms, and any other related documentation regarding the current status of the loan or line of credit.
11. Provide copies of any insurance policies that may provide coverage for activities associated with enforcement action "Civil Action Number 3:03-CV-7681".

#### **Operational Information:**

12. Provide the name(s) and contact information of the current owner(s) of the Croton, Marseilles, and Mt. Victory facilities. Provide the name(s) and contact information for any other individuals or entities who owned the Croton, Marseilles, and Mt. Victory facilities since January 2008.
13. Provide the name(s) and contact information of the current operator(s) of the Croton, Marseilles, and Mt. Victory facilities. Provide the name(s) and contact information for

- any other individuals or entities who operated the Croton, Marseilles, and Mt. Victory facilities since January 2008.
14. Identify each individual or company who is currently in operational control of the Croton, Marseilles, and Mt. Victory facilities.
  15. Identify each individual or company who is currently responsible for the following for the Croton, Marseilles, and Mt. Victory facilities:
    - a. Paying property taxes;
    - b. Paying utility bills;
    - c. Paying employee salaries;
    - d. Owning birds; and
    - e. Owning bird feed.
  16. Identify each individual or company who is currently responsible for the following operational activities at the Croton, Marseilles, and Mt. Victory facilities:
    - a. Making managerial decisions about employee responsibilities, performance, and work-related activities; and
    - b. Making managerial decisions about overall facility operations, including:
      - i. Installation of the belt battery systems at the Croton facility;
      - ii. Cleaning out barns (birds and manure);
      - iii. Repopulating barns; and
      - iv. Reopening barns that were previously closed (for remodeling or maintenance).
  17. Since 2011, was OFE ever operating the Croton, Marseilles and Mt. Victory facilities?
  18. Since 2011, was OFE leasing the Croton, Marseilles, and Mt. Victory facilities?
  19. Did OFE provide a copy of the 2004 Consent Decree entered into between United States and Buckeye Egg Farm, Croton Farm, LLC, and Anton Pohlman (2004 CD) to you at any time since entry of the 2004 CD? If OFE did not provide a copy of the 2004 CD to you, state that OFE did not provide Centrum with such information as part of your response.
  20. When did OFE provide any information to you about the 2004 CD? If OFE did not provide any information about the 2004 CD to you, state that OFE did not provide any information to Centrum about the 2004 CD as part of your response.
  21. Since 2011, were the electrostatic space charging system (ESCS) devices required by the 2004 CD installed at Croton Layer Sites 2 and 4, Marseilles, and Mt. Victory facilities?
  22. Since 2011, were the ESCS devices required by the 2004 CD operating at the Croton Layer Sites 2 and 4, Marseilles, and Mt. Victory facilities?
  23. Since 2011, have you ever operated, tried to operate, repaired, maintained, or otherwise perform activities related to the ESCS devices, or other measures required by the final approved PM control plan submitted under the 2004 CD and approved for implementation by EPA in accordance with the 2004 CD?
  24. If you have never operated, tried to operate, repaired, maintained, or otherwise performed activities related to the ESCS devices, who made the decision to not operate, try to operate, repair, maintain, or otherwise perform activities related to the ESCS devices?
  25. Since 2011, who made the decision to reopen barns at the Croton Layer Site 3?
  26. Since 2011, who made the decision to reopen barns at the Croton Layer Site 3 without installing the ESCS devices?

27. In quarterly reports required under the 2004 CD and submitted beginning 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2013 and continuing through 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2017, who determined that the ESCS is “not needed” at Croton Layer Site 3?
28. What is the basis for the statement that the ESCS is “not needed” at Croton Layer Site 3 as stated in the quarterly reports submitted beginning 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2013 and continuing through 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2017?
29. Provide copies of any documentation substantiating and justifying the basis under which it was determined the ESCS is “not needed” at Croton Layer Site 3.
30. Since 2011, state whether you implemented and continue to implement all of the required best management practices for ammonia control required by the 2004 CD at the Croton, Marseilles, and Mt. Victory facilities for each of the following:
  - a. operation of belt battery systems at the Croton facility;
  - b. operation of manure pit fans at the Marseilles, and Mt. Victory facilities; and
  - c. all aspects of the water management plans.
31. Provide copies of all documentation substantiating and justifying what aspects, if any, of the ammonia control plan required by the 2004 CD and approved by EPA in accordance with the 2004 CD were in place, operating, and implemented at the Croton, Marseilles, and Mt. Victory facilities since 2011.
32. Provide copies of all documentation substantiating and justifying what aspects, if any, of the ammonia control plan required by the 2004 CD and approved by EPA in accordance with the 2004 CD (“approved ammonia control plan”), have been operated and implemented at the Croton, Marseilles, and Mt. Victory facilities since 2016.
33. If you have not operated, tried to operate, repaired, maintained, implemented, or otherwise performed activities related to the approved ammonia control plan for any period of time following EPA’s approval of the ammonia control plan, who made the decision to not operate, try to operate, repair, maintain, implement, or otherwise perform activities related to the approved ammonia control plan implementation?
34. Provide copies of any documentation substantiating and justifying the basis under which Centrum determined it would not operate, try to operate, repair, maintain, implement, or otherwise perform activities related to the approved ammonia control plan.
35. Who made the decision to submit the May 12, 2017 request to EPA for “an acknowledgment of completion” under the 2004 CD?



## **Appendix C**

### **Confidential Business and Personal Privacy Information**

#### **Assertion Requirements**

You may assert a business confidentiality claim covering any parts of the information requested in the attached Appendix B, as provided in 40 C.F.R. § 2.203(b).

Emission data provided under Section 114 of the CAA, 42 U.S.C. § 7414, is not entitled to confidential treatment under 40 C.F.R. Part 2.

“Emission data” means, with reference to any source of emissions of any substance into the air:

Information necessary to determine the identity, amount, frequency, concentration or other characteristics (to the extent related to air quality) of any emission which has been emitted by the source (or of any pollutant resulting from any emission by the source), or any combination of the foregoing;

Information necessary to determine the identity, amount, frequency, concentration or other characteristics (to the extent related to air quality) of the emissions which, under an applicable standard or limitation, the source was authorized to emit (including to the extent necessary for such purposes, a description of the manner and rate of operation of the source); and

A general description of the location and/or nature of the source to the extent necessary to identify the source and to distinguish it from other sources (including, to the extent necessary for such purposes, a description of the device, installation, or operation constituting the source).

40 C.F.R. § 2.301(a)(2)(i)(A), (B) and (C).

To make a confidentiality claim, submit the requested information and indicate that you are making a claim of confidentiality. Any document for which you make a claim of confidentiality should be marked by attaching a cover sheet stamped or typed with a caption or other suitable form of notice to indicate the intent to claim confidentiality. The stamped or typed caption or other suitable form of notice should employ language such as “trade secret” or “proprietary” or “company confidential” and indicate a date, if any, when the information should no longer be treated as confidential. Information covered by such a claim will be disclosed by EPA only to the extent permitted and by means of the procedures set forth at *Section 114(c)* of the CAA and 40 C.F.R. Part 2. Allegedly confidential portions of otherwise non-confidential documents should be clearly identified. EPA will construe the failure to furnish a confidentiality claim with your response to the information request as a waiver of that claim, and the information may be made available to the public without further notice to you.

## **Determining Whether the Information Is Entitled to Confidential Treatment**

All confidentiality claims are subject to EPA verification and must be made in accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 2.208, which provides in part that you must satisfactorily show: that you have taken reasonable measures to protect the confidentiality of the information and that you intend to continue to do so, that the information is not and has not been reasonably obtainable by legitimate means without your consent and that disclosure of the information is likely to cause substantial harm to your business's competitive position.

Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. Part 2, Subpart B, EPA may at any time send you a letter asking that you support your confidential business information (CBI) claim. If you receive such a letter, you must respond within the number of days specified by EPA. Failure to submit your comments within that time would be regarded as a waiver of your confidentiality claim or claims, and EPA may release the information. If you receive such a letter, EPA will ask you to specify which portions of the information you consider confidential by page, paragraph and sentence. Any information not specifically identified as subject to a confidentiality claim may be disclosed to the requestor without further notice to you. For each item or class of information that you identify as being CBI, EPA will ask that you answer the following questions, giving as much detail as possible:

1. For what period of time do you request that the information be maintained as confidential, e.g., until a certain date, until the occurrence of a special event or permanently? If the occurrence of a specific event will eliminate the need for confidentiality, please specify that event.
2. Information submitted to EPA becomes stale over time. Why should the information you claim as confidential be protected for the time period specified in your answer to question number 1?
3. What measures have you taken to protect the information claimed as confidential? Have you disclosed the information to anyone other than a governmental body or someone who is bound by an agreement not to disclose the information further? If so, why should the information still be considered confidential?
4. Is the information contained in any publicly available databases, promotional publications, annual reports or articles? Is there any means by which a member of the public could obtain access to the information? Is the information of a kind that you would customarily not release to the public?
5. Has any governmental body made a determination as to confidentiality of the information? If so, please attach a copy of the determination.
6. For each category of information claimed as confidential, explain with specificity why release of the information is likely to cause substantial harm to your competitive position. Explain the specific nature of those harmful effects, why they should be viewed as

substantial and the causal relationship between disclosure and such harmful effects. How could your competitors make use of this information to your detriment?

7. Do you assert that the information is submitted on a voluntary or a mandatory basis? Please explain the reason for your assertion. If you assert that the information is voluntarily submitted information, explain whether and why disclosure of the information would tend to lessen the availability to EPA of similar information in the future.
8. Is there any other information you deem relevant to EPA's determination regarding your claim of business confidentiality?

If you receive a request for a substantiation letter from the EPA, you bear the burden of substantiating your confidentiality claim. Conclusory allegations will be given little or no weight in the determination. In substantiating your CBI claim(s), you must bracket all text so claimed and mark it "CBI." Information so designated will be disclosed by EPA only to the extent allowed by and by means of the procedures set forth in 40 C.F.R. Part 2, Subpart B. If you fail to claim the information as confidential, it may be made available to the public without further notice to you.

### **Personal Privacy Information**

Please segregate any personnel, medical and similar files from your responses and include that information on a separate sheet(s) marked as "Personal Privacy Information." Disclosure of such information to the general public may constitute an invasion of privacy.

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I certify that I sent a Request to Provide Information Pursuant to the Clean Air Act by

Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested, to:

Centrum Valley Farms LLC  
100 Central Avenue  
Clarion, Iowa 50525-1411

Michael R. Blaser, Registered Agent Centrum  
Valley Farms LLC,  
666 Grand Ave  
Suite 200  
Des Moines, Iowa 50309-2510

7017 0660 0000 3661 7147

I also certify that I sent a copy of the Request to Provide Information Pursuant to the

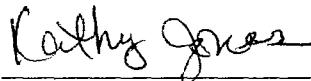
Clean Air Act by E-mail to:

Bob Hodanbosi,  
Chief, Division of Air Pollution Control  
[Bob.hodanbosi@epa.ohio.gov](mailto:Bob.hodanbosi@epa.ohio.gov)

James Kavalec,  
Environmental Manager, Division of Air  
Pollution Control,  
[James.kavalec@epa.ohio.gov](mailto:James.kavalec@epa.ohio.gov)

Kelly Toth  
APC Manager, Division of Air Pollution  
Control,  
[Kelly.toth@epa.ohio.gov](mailto:Kelly.toth@epa.ohio.gov)

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of May 2018.



Kathy Jones, Program Technician  
AECAB, PAS

CERTIFIED MAIL RECEIPT NUMBER:

7017 0660 0000 3661 7170